

# *Candle Safety*

According to the National Candle Association, 70 percent of households use candles in the United States.

Most people don't see candles as a major fire hazard, but according to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) from 1983 to 1998 candle fires accounted for 8,690 fires, 104 deaths, 947 injuries, and an estimated \$126 million in property damage.



The NFPA offers the following candle safety tips:

- Use candles only with constant adult supervision.
- Extinguish all candles when leaving a room or going to sleep.
- Keep candles away from items that can catch fire, such as Christmas trees, clothing, paper, or curtains.
- Place candles and candle holders on a secure piece of furniture. Make sure candleholders are non-combustible and large enough to collect the dripping wax.
- Do not place lighted candles in windows, where blinds or curtains can close over them.
- Keep wicks trimmed to 1/4 inch, and extinguish candles when they burn to within two inches of the holder.
- Keep candles and all open flames away from flammable liquids
- Do not use candles in places where they can be knocked over by children or pets.



For more information, visit the Houston Fire Department website at [www.houstonfire.org](http://www.houstonfire.org) or contact the HFD Public Education Division at 713-865-7120.